

While my friend has been a dedicated worker for the last 47 years, and a steadfast contributor to his community, he has been an even more dedicated husband to Irene, father to Louie, Irene, and Kurt, and grandfather to three wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Loreto Gonzalez has given his time and efforts selflessly to the steelworkers with whom he has worked and to the people of Northwest Indiana for his entire life. He has been a true role model to his peers and a true friend to Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Baby Lou for his outstanding contributions to Northwest Indiana and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SHANNON MOODY

### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Shannon Moody as she is recognized with the STAR Award by the Learn To Read Program for reading her 700th book to her daughter. The Student Achievement in Reading Award is given to one student per year who has shown exceptional dedication, commitment and persistence in reaching their literacy goal. Shannon worked towards this goal with the help of her volunteer tutor and utilized the vast resources available at the Manchester Public Library.

Shannon recognizes and appreciates the quality time she and her daughter share when they read together. As a parent, I know the importance of spending time with your children and she has set a fine example to her daughter on working hard towards a goal that is important to you. I'm sure Shannon's efforts have instilled a great love of reading into her daughter and she can be very proud of her achievements in the Learn To Read Program.

I congratulate Shannon and wish her all the best for continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. THEODORE MCCURTIS FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable disabled veteran, Mr. Theodore McCurtis, who was born September 19, 1934, in Hinds County, Edwards, Mississippi. He was the fourth of eight children born to the late Herman and Mae Bell Lloyd McCurtis. Mr. McCurtis' early years of education began at Edwards Elementary School and continued on to Southern Christian Institute High School in Edwards, Mississippi. From there, he volunteered to go to the United States Air Force while in the 12th grade.

Mr. McCurtis entered the United States Air Force on October 22, 1952, where he served in the Korean War. He received basic training at Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, California.

Mr. McCurtis served at Castle Air Force Base in Merced, California, and was attached to a Strategic Air Command. He was later sent to England where he served in the Military Police and embarked on missions to set up radar around the world. After dutiful service, he became disabled and lost the use of both his hands.

Mr. McCurtis is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Edwards, Mississippi, where he serves as a dedicated Trustee. His membership at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church began during childhood under the leadership of his grandfather, Sam Butler, who was the second minister of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. McCurtis is happily married to his wife of 45 years, Mrs. Christine E. McCurtis. They have four children: Theodore, Jr., Martin Lloyd, Andrea Denise, and Sharon Denise McCurtis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Theodore McCurtis for his honorable service to our country.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER STANLEY LOBODZINSKI

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Chester Stanley Lobodzinski. Chester has dedicated his life to serving the community of Northwest Indiana. His outstanding dedication put forth toward public service has allowed him the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless individuals.

For his tremendous passion to serve those in need and to encourage others to do the same, Chester is a true leader and an inspiration. He has accomplished so much throughout his life and I am grateful for his numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. Chester, a retired steelworker, founded the American Steelworkers National Day, a day that honors steelworkers who have been committed to improving the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana. Chester is also the founder of the local chapter of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers, an organization that brings people together through public service. Another project that Chester has organized and developed is the Hammond Tech Appreciation Society, which recognizes and honors the faculty and alumni of Hammond Tech High School. In addition to these wonderful organizations, Chester is also a member of American Legion Post 261 in Cedar Lake, Indiana, and has given much of his time to the Crown Point Little League and the Chester Stanley Lobodzinski Hope Foundation for cancer patients, among others. Chester's unwavering perseverance and his enthusiastic outlook when it comes to community service is to be admired, and he is worthy of our highest praise.

Chester's dedication to public service and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Chester and his lovely wife, Lurene, have been happily married for almost fifty years. They raised four beloved children: Cathy, Stan, Tim, and the late Anita, and have

two adoring grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Chester Lobodzinski has always given his time and efforts generously and compassionately. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring him for his exceptional charitable work. Chester continues to touch the lives of countless people, and for his unselfish, lifelong commitment, he is to be commended.

HONORING CHARLES T. "CHUCK" KENNEDY

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Charles T. "Chuck" Kennedy on the occasion of his retirement with the National Security Agency, NSA, after 31 years of distinguished service.

As Chief of the Office of Contracting at NSA, Mr. Kennedy has been responsible for about 36,000 contracting actions per year. His expertise has been used in joint NSA initiatives with other countries and foreign contractors. Mr. Kennedy is also a member of NSA's Power, Space, and Cooling Triage Team. This cross-functional team, made up of leaders throughout the NSA Washington Enterprise, ensures that high-priority mission requirements receive the necessary power and cooling to function.

Mr. Kennedy is also a member of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Procurement Executive Council. This interagency team examines procurement challenges, helps streamline processes and establishes contracts.

Mr. Kennedy spent his entire career in the contracting field, graduating from his internship in 1983. Over the years, Mr. Kennedy progressed through various management levels that included Chief of the Signals Intelligence Directorate/Research & Development Contracting Office, Chief of the Information Technology Enterprise Contracting Office, Chief of the Mission Support Contracting Office and Chief of the Cost and Economic Analysis Contracting Office.

Mr. Kennedy is a recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. This is NSA's second highest honorary award, given only to extraordinary individual achievements of major significance to NSA, the Department of Defense, or the United States Government.

Mr. Kennedy holds two Masters of Science Degrees, a Bachelors of Science Degree and is a graduate of the NSA Senior Cryptologic Course. His certifications include Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Certified Level 4—Acquisition Corps and NSA Logistician. He holds an unlimited Contracting Officer warrant.

Mr. Kennedy and his wife Patti have been married for 34 years. They have three sons and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Kennedy. His long and dedicated service to the United States government is an inspiration to all of us. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Kennedy on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. CALVIN DICKERSON FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable man, Mr. Calvin Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to serve. He is currently a 56-year-old resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where he volunteers countless hours to the Mississippi Christian Family Services.

Mr. Dickerson is well known at Mississippi Christian Family Services and throughout the community for his hard work, dedication, reliability, and kind deeds. His work at Mississippi Christian Family Services includes making sure families in need of quality social services are provided for in a kindly, comforting, and proficient manner.

Mr. Dickerson volunteers with the Rolling Fork Fire Department, Police Department, and assists the security guards with the Sharkey County Sheriff Department at football and basketball games at the local public and private high schools.

He has the opportunity to serve as an assistant tour guide at the two most popular events that are held each year: the Great Delta Festival held in May and the Bear Festival held in October. He enjoys helping the tour guide show students from local schools the different bear carvings and the stations that are set up to inform students about how the event originated and other important features.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dynamic servant of the community, Mr. Calvin Dickerson for his dedication to service throughout his community.

**KHAN ACADEMY PROJECT**

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to the recent innovative vision developed by the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organization. The organization's mission aims to decrease the disparity of educational resources, by using the internet as a tool to revolutionize the way we approach knowledge. In their attempt to mobilize a free, world-class education, they have compiled over 2,700 videos in the subjects of math, biology, chemistry, physics, history and art. The production of these videos is helping adults and children fill in gaps of knowledge they either forgot or never learned. I know that the Khan Academy recognizes the importance of technology in education and I commend them for their effort to develop creative strategies to help our children learn.

Salman Khan is the founder and visionary of the Khan Academy project. After graduating from Massachusetts Institution of Technology,

he pursued a career in finance and quit his job in 2009. While he assisted his cousin with the subject of mathematics, he designed tutorial videos and eventually published them online. He received a successful response from over 20,000 users, which ultimately led to his interest in crafting a media tool that would help revamp traditional classroom techniques. Currently, the Khan Academy receives about \$2 million in support and continues to expand videos and programs. Most recently, the organization decided to make the material available in community colleges and charter schools in the United States.

By recognizing the importance of technology in education, we have a responsibility to make sure that more people have access to the internet. If we fail to pave the road for this access to pioneering technologies, we run the risk of furthering economic disparities and barriers to equal education. I encourage my colleagues to become familiar with the Khan Academy's website and use the fresh approaches in technology to elevate their knowledge about the world.

**RECOGNIZING GEORGE THIEL**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and selfless citizens, Mr. George Thiel, of Griffith, Indiana. After serving the people of Griffith as a firefighter for sixty years, the last twenty-nine of which he served as the department's Fire Chief, George retired from service at the beginning of 2012. In recognition of Mr. Thiel's service to his community, not only as a firefighter but also for his commitment to serving his community in many other capacities, a party was held in his honor on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

George was born March 20, 1926, in Saint John, Indiana, and learned the meaning of dedication and hard work on his family's farm. To this day, George still enjoys farming. After graduating from Dyer Central High School, George entered the Army, where he was quickly promoted to Sergeant for the 99th Infantry Division. During his military service, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Purple Heart Medal. George was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945 and began his first career as a home builder, retiring from that position in 1990. Shortly after beginning his first career, George found his true love and married Peggy Vestal in 1951. He then found his other true love and joined the Griffith Fire Department in 1952. George and Peggy were blessed to have three children: Mike, Larry, and Sandy, who have given them six wonderful grandchildren. George remained dedicated to his family and his career and was promoted to Fire Chief in 1983, a post he retained until his retirement.

Of all the awards and highlights of a sixty-year firefighting career, George can be most proud of the public educational work he has accomplished and the countless lives he has saved. George has saved many lives simply through his initiative to provide Griffith residents with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide

detectors, and fire extinguishers at no cost to the resident. Additionally, George has passed on much of his knowledge and expertise to so many firefighters that Griffith will benefit for generations to come.

Aside from his incredible sixty years of service on the fire department, George's contributions to the Northwest Indiana community extend to numerous youth organizations that were fortunate to have George's coaching and mentoring skills. George continues to enjoy volunteering and watching all Griffith High School football and basketball games. George also remains an instrumental teacher to the people of Griffith by sharing his knowledge of the rich tradition and history of the town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. George Thiel for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the residents of Griffith, Indiana. He has touched the lives of countless citizens, and his commitment to the safety of his community and to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Griffith is to be admired.

**RECOGNIZING MS. LELA BUIE FOR HER PERSISTENCE DESPITE DISABILITY AND DEDICATION TO SERVE OTHERS**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person with disability, Ms. Lela Buie. Born on June 26, 1938, in Jefferson County, Fayette, Mississippi, she is the youngest of four children to the late Eda and Jude Sims. Her early years of education began at Ledall Elementary School and she later attended Alcorn in Lorman, Mississippi, and received her General Education Diploma.

Ms. Buie was employed at the Mississippi Department of Labor for 17 years before retiring to take care of her children.

Ms. Buie has two daughters, Sarah and Shirley Buie, and four sons, G.C. Buie, Jr., Edward Charles, Jude, and Robert Ander.

Ms. Buie is happy to have seen her loving children grow up to be successful and has a host of nieces and nephews that love and care for her. Ms. Buie is a longtime member of Rosehill Church #2.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Lela Buie for her dedication to serving others in her disability.

**RECOGNIZING THE SELECTION OF MR. TRACY HOWARD FOR THE ARMY ALL-AMERICAN GAME**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the accomplishments of Mr. Tracy Howard, Jr. of Miramar, Florida. Mr. Howard was selected to play in the 2012 Army All-American game on January 7, 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on this great honor, and to recognize all of his extraordinary achievements.